

**THE MINUTES OF THE HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES**

**Wednesday, March 15, 2006**

**4:30 p.m.**

**Room 326 House Office Building**

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The House Standing Committee on Family and Children Services was called to order by **Representative Stahl**, Chair.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Representatives Stahl, Pearce, Hoogendyk, Sheen, Clack, Spade, Polidori and Lemmons, Jr.

**MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Representative Vander Veen.

**Representative Polidori** moved to excuse **Representative Vander Veen** from the committee. The motion was supported by **Representative Lemmons, Jr.** There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

**Chairman Stahl** laid **HB 5698, HB 5699, HB 5700, HB 5701, HB 5702** and **HB 5703** before the committee:

HB 5698	Vander Veen	Family law; marriage and divorce; divorce; require a divorce effects program before entry of judgment of divorce.
HB 5699	Kooiman	Family law; marriage and divorce; prerequisites for issuance of a marriage license; require premarriage program or longer waiting period.
HB 5700	Stahl	Income tax; credit; marriage preservation tax credit; provide for.
HB 5701	Moolenaar	Family law; child custody; child parenting plan; create.
HB 5702	Gleason	Family law; marriage and divorce; individuals who can accept payment and perform marriage and family counseling; expand.
HB 5703	Wojno	Family law; marriage and divorce; recording of certain information on marriage license and certificate; require.

**TESTIMONY**

**Former Representative Joanne Voorhees**, testified in support of the bills.

**Representative Kooiman**, sponsor of HB 5699, explained his bill to the committee.

**Mandy Bolter**, from Representative Kooiman's office, testified in support of HB 5698, HB 5699, HB 5702 and HB 5703.

**Representative Stahl**, sponsor of HB 5700, explained his bill to the committee.

**Representative Moolenaar**, sponsor of HB 5701, explained his bill to the committee.

**Representative Shaffer**, representing the 59<sup>th</sup> District, gave comments in support of the bills.

The following people submitted cards and did not wish to speak:

**Kathy Hagenian**, representing the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, opposes HB 5701 and HB 5698.

**Bill Kandler**, representing the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, opposes HB 5698 and HB 5703, supports HB 5699 and HB 5701 with an amendment and indicated no position on HB 5700 and HB 5702.

**Kevin McKinney**, representing the Michigan Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, supports the bills.

**Stephanie Wuttke**, representing the Michigan Advocacy Project, opposes HB 5698 and HB 5701.

**Paul A. Long**, representing the Michigan Catholic Conference, supports the bills.

**Gary Naeyaert**, representing Dads of Michigan, supports the bills.

**Suzanne Hollyer**, representing the Friend of the Court Association, indicated neutrality on the bills.

**Kathleen Gross**, representing the Michigan Psychiatric Society, supports HB 5702 with an amendment and indicated neutrality on HB 5698, HB 5699, HB 5700, HB 5701 and HB 5703.

**Peggy Johnson**, representing the Michigan Department of Treasury, testified in opposition to HB 5700.

**Ron Hicks**, representing the Michigan Department of Human Services, testified indicating neutrality on the bills.

**Dan Jarvis**, representing the Michigan Family Forum, testified in support of the bills.

**Renee Beeker**, representing Michigan NOW, testified in opposition to HB 5698 and HB 5701.

**Judge Paul Hamre**, representing the Michigan Judges Association, testified indicating neutrality on the bills.

**Mary Lovik**, staff attorney for the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, testified indicating concerns regarding HB 5698 and HB 5701.

**Michael T. Ross**, representing the Family Rights Coalition, testified in support of HB 5701.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

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**Representative John Stahl, Chair**  
**House Standing Committee on Family and Children Services**  
Malika Abdur-Rashid  
Committee Clerk  
517/373-7256  
1 Hour 48 Minutes